

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of accessing data at a server computer from a client computer connected to the server computer via a network, the data being stored on a data storage device connected to the server computer, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the server computer, a request for data from the client computer in the form of a universal resource locator (URL) command, the URL command including a file identifier for identifying a file containing the requested data and a file format for the file, wherein the client computer can access the file having the file format;

determining, at the server computer, whether the file identifier is valid;

if the file identifier is determined to be valid, retrieving, at the server computer, the requested data from the data storage device in response to the request for data from the client computer;

after retrieving the requested data from the data storage device, determining, at the server computer, whether the client computer can access the retrieved data in its retrieved form;

if it is determined that the client computer cannot access the retrieved data in its retrieved form, automatically converting, at the server, the retrieved data into converted data that the client computer can access; and

returning a locator to the client computer for locating the converted data.

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the step of determining whether the client computer can access the retrieved data in its retrieved form further comprises comparing the file format specified by the URL command to a file extension of the retrieved file.

6. (previously presented): The method of claim 5, wherein the step of automatically converting the retrieved data into converted data that the client computer can access further comprises converting the retrieved file to the file format specified by the URL command.

7. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
storing the converted data at the server computer; and

generating a path name to locate the stored converted data.

8. (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the locator comprises the path name.

9. (previously presented): The method of claim 7, wherein the client computer has a Web browser, and further comprising the step of, under control of the Web browser, retrieving the stored converted data from the server computer using the generated path name.

10. (currently amended): An apparatus for accessing data from a server computer, comprising:

a server computer having a data storage device connected thereto, wherein the data storage device stores data;

a client computer connected to the server computer; and

one or more computer programs, performed by the server computer via a network, for receiving a request for data from the client computer in the form of a universal resource locator (URL) command, the URL command including a file identifier for identifying a file containing the requested data and a file format for the file, wherein the client computer can access the file having the file format; determining whether the file identifier is valid; if the file identifier is determined to be valid, retrieving the requested data from the data storage device in response to the request for data from the client computer; after retrieving the requested data from the data

storage device, determining whether the client computer can access the retrieved data in its retrieved form; if it is determined that the client computer cannot access the retrieved data in its retrieved form, automatically converting the retrieved data into converted data that the client computer can access; and returning a locator to the client computer for locating the converted data.

11. (canceled).

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended): The apparatus of ~~claim 13~~ claim 10, wherein the program for determining whether the client computer can access the retrieved data in its retrieved form further comprises means for comparing the file format specified by the URL command to a file extension of the retrieved file.

15. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the program for automatically converting the retrieved data into converted data that the client computer can

access further comprises means for converting the retrieved file to the file format specified by the URL command.

16. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:
means for storing the converted data at the server computer; and
means for generating a path name to locate the stored converted data.

17. (original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the locator comprises the path name.

18. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the client computer has a Web browser, and further comprising means for, under control of the Web browser, retrieving the stored converted data from the server computer using the locator.

19. (currently amended): An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a client computer and tangibly embodying one or more instructions executable by the client computer to perform method steps for accessing data at a server computer from a client computer connected to the server computer via a network, the data being stored in a data storage device connected to the server computer, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the server computer, a request for data from the client computer in the form of a universal resource locator (URL) command, the URL command including a file identifier for identifying a file containing the requested data and a file format for the file, wherein the client computer can access the file having the file format;

determining, at the server computer, whether the file identifier is valid;

if the file identifier is determined to be valid, retrieving, at the server computer, the requested data from the data storage device in response to the request for data from the client computer;

after retrieving the requested data from the data storage device, determining, at the server computer, whether the client computer can access the retrieved data in its retrieved form;

if it is determined that the client computer cannot access the retrieved data in its retrieved form, automatically converting, at the server, the retrieved data into converted data that the client computer can access; and

returning a locator to the client computer for locating the converted data.

20. (canceled).

21. (canceled).

22. (canceled).

23. (currently amended): The article of manufacture of ~~claim 22~~ claim 19, wherein the step of determining whether the client computer can access the retrieved data in its retrieved form further comprises comparing the file format specified by the URL command to a file extension of the retrieved file.

24. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the step of converting the retrieved data into converted data that the client computer can access further comprises converting the retrieved file to the file format specified by the URL command.

25. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

storing the converted data at the server computer; and

generating a path name to locate the stored converted data.

26. (original): The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the locator comprises the path name.

27. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the client computer has a Web browser, and further comprising the step of, under control of the Web browser, retrieving the stored converted data from the server computer using the locator.

28. (previously presented): The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of deleting the stored converted data after a predetermined period of time.

29. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising means for deleting the stored converted data after a predetermined period of time.

30. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 25, further comprising the step of deleting the stored converted data after a predetermined period of time.

31. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the client computer has a Web browser, and further comprising the step of, under control of the Web browser, retrieving the converted data from the server computer using the locator.

32. (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the client computer has a Web browser, and further comprising the step of, under control of the Web browser, retrieving the converted data from the server computer using the generated path name.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/376,880
Attorney Docket No. ST9-98-116 / A8135

33. (previously presented): The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the client computer has a Web browser, and further comprising the step of, under control of the Web browser, retrieving the converted data from the server computer using the generated path name.

34. (new): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein at least one of said one or more computer programs are performed by the server computer for controlling access to the data stored on the data storage device.

35. (new): The apparatus of claim 10, wherein at least one of said one or more programs are performed by the server computer for authenticating the data stored on the data storage device.